

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THANKS TO COMMANDER ROY G. ORGERON AND AMERICAN LEGION, NICHOLSON POST #38

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send a heartfelt thanks to both Commander Roy G. Orgeron and the entire American Legion, Nicholson Post #38 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana for helping us "Honor and Remember those who Served and Sacrificed" on Veterans Day, November 11, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, originally chartered by the United States Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, war-time veterans organization, the American Legion is best described by the Preamble to its Constitution:

For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; To maintain law and order; To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars; To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; To make right the master of might; To promote peace and good-will on earth; To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; To consecrate our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

As the facilitative host of a Veterans Day breakfast, and on a day where as a country we paused to reflect on the sacrifices of all those who have put on the uniform to serve in the United States military, the members of Nicholson Post #38 honorably upheld these words, demonstrating their endless commitment to south Louisiana's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, although we can never adequately repay their service to our great Nation, as a senior Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in saluting and congratulating Nicholson Post #38 on this outstanding achievement.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING OHIO UNIVERSITY AS THEY COMMEMORATE THEIR BICENTENNIAL

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, is celebrating 200 years of excellence in advanced education and character development; and

Whereas, liberal arts institutions are essential to the progress of arts and sciences and

important to morality, virtue and religion in any society; and

Whereas, the General Assembly of the State of Ohio met in Chillicothe, Ohio, to establish a university in the town of Athens by the name and style of "Ohio University" on February 18, 1804;

Therefore, I join with the residents of Ross County and the entire 18th Congressional District in celebrating Ohio University's Bicentennial Anniversary.

HOPE IN HAITI

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to call the attention of his colleagues to the excellent editorial on Haiti in the March 2, 2004, edition of the Omaha World-Herald. The Bush administration has responded properly to the crisis in Haiti. The citizens of that desperately poor country have suffered greatly under the regime of the autocratic and quixotic Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Now he is finally gone and good riddance. The international community under the leadership of the United Nations needs to be fully engaged in bringing peace and stability to this terribly troubled country so that the livelihood of its people can begin to receive the necessary attention.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Mar. 2, 2004]

HAITI'S NEW HOPE

The Bush administration has had sharp foreign policy disagreements with other countries. But in responding to the political collapse in Haiti, the international community is in general consensus. For Haiti to move forward, it's widely agreed that the country's president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, had to go.

That is a reasonable stance. Aristide is a former priest reinstated in 1994 by a U.S. military campaign as the duly elected president. But during the past decade, he amassed a record of shamelessly backtracking on his promises to uphold democracy.

He even copied the fascistic tactics of Haiti's old-time dictator, "Papa Doc" Duvalier, using gangs of thugs to intimidate and murder members of the political opposition. Four years ago, such tactics spurred the Clinton administration to end all aid to Haiti except for humanitarian assistance. The foul tactics also led the United Nations to refuse to recognize the validity of the country's tainted Senate elections. In 2000, Aristide was elected president in a contest boycotted in protest by the political opposition.

Bush's Democratic critics are arguing that the administration should have sent in U.S. Marines last week to buttress Aristide. But Bush's refusal to maintain Aristide in power had the support of leading players such as France and Canada (whose governments were at loggerheads with Bush over the Iraq war last year).

It was the political opposition in Haiti that may well have made the key decision

leading to Aristide's downfall. Last week the United States headed a multilateral diplomatic effort that was poised to force Aristide to agree to accept a politically independent prime minister. But opposition leaders balked at the proposal, saying Aristide couldn't be trusted.

Now Aristide has fled to a safe haven in Africa (facilitated by the efforts of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell to find him a host country), and U.S. Marines are arriving in Haiti to provide order. Up to around 1,000 American troops will ultimately be placed there, with a large contingent serving as gendarmes, Powell says.

A multinational security force, approved Sunday night by the United Nations Security Council, is also in the works.

Prospects for a politically stable Haiti (which this year marks the 200th anniversary of its successful revolt against French rule) are unclear. Armed bands, seemingly tethered only to an agenda of plundering and vendetta-settling, have proliferated. The gap between the country's rich and poor feeds tremendous resentments. The large amounts of aid that the Clinton administration pumped into Haiti in the 1990s for police training and economic development appear to have done little good.

Nonetheless, the end of Aristide's regime provides encouragement. Particularly welcome is the widespread support from abroad that Haiti enjoys as it attempts to pull itself away from the injustice and brutality of the past.

For all the problems their country faces, the Haitian people can count on the support of the United States and many other countries in the effort to make the fall of Haiti's latest dictator the turning point it can be to a better future. In that, there can be great hope.

RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COLORADO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Colorado nonprofit organizations. This week is Colorado Nonprofit Week, an annual event organized by the Colorado Association of Nonprofit Organizations (CANPO) and volunteer committees around the state to recognize and celebrate the vital impact Colorado's nonprofits have on our economy and quality of life.

The theme for this year's Colorado's Nonprofit Week is "where hope resides." Nonprofit organizations do not only provide much needed benevolent services to the needy, but they also provide a sense of hope for those in the direst of circumstances.

The three major goals of Colorado Nonprofit Week is to increase the visibility of these organizations, strengthen the relationship between nonprofit leaders and public officials, and to

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

encourage individual nonprofit leaders to see themselves as part of the greater nonprofit private sector.

Nonprofit organizations throughout Colorado serve as responsible stewards of charitable dollars. Over 16,000 charitable nonprofit organizations operate in Colorado. In 2001 nonprofit expenditures totaled more than \$9 billion in Colorado for the 5,400 largest nonprofits and \$822 billion in the U.S. for the nearly 267,000 largest nonprofits.

These organizations subscribe to a number of missions and values. I strongly commend their efforts to invest in the potential of all citizens through education, employment, recreation, arts, and culture.

The nonprofit sector throughout Colorado has a proud history of service, innovation, and the accomplishments of the sector deserve acknowledgement, affirmation, and celebration.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I ask my colleagues to join me to commend the efforts of nonprofit organizations, not only throughout Colorado, but also the entire Nation.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
CARRIE MYTINGER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Carrie Mytinger was presented the 2003 Rookie of the Year Award by the Chillicothe Jaycees; and

Whereas, Carrie Mytinger must be commended for her work with the Chillicothe community; and

Whereas, Carrie Mytinger has demonstrated a commitment to community service through her work with various organizations, meeting challenges with enthusiasm and confidence;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Carrie Mytinger for her outstanding accomplishment.

HOUSE COMMISSION FOR ASSISTING
DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTS
RESOLUTION: A PRICE-BEREUTER-
DREIER-FROST INITIATIVE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to thank his friend the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. PRICE, for working with me and introducing a resolution to establish the House Commission for Assisting Democratic Parliaments. This Member is proud to be an original cosponsor of this measure, along with the chairman and the ranking Democratic member of the Committee on Rules. Having been involved in the Frost-Solomon Task Force, which undertook a similar effort a decade ago, this Member is enthused to offer this new initiative.

The spread of parliamentary democracy in Central and Eastern Europe is one of the great success stories in recent history. Of course, the efforts by those nations to over-

throw their communist dictatorships in some cases traces back several decades, but the rapid downfall of those regimes began after the events of 1989 and accelerated in the early 1990s.

Sadly, some countries that gained independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia simply traded communist dictatorships for new dictatorships of nationalists and former apparatchiks. But most of these countries moved quickly to establish new democracies, holding free and fair elections and transforming their parliaments from rubber-stamp facades into independent legislatures. However, this task proved easier on paper than in practice.

As we well know in this Congress, our ability to legislate independently of the executive depends on our access to independent information and analysis. We are fortunate to have our own staffs and support agencies to which we can turn to research an issue and provide alternative points of view. Recognizing the importance of this, the Congress has created agencies like the General Accounting Office, Congressional Research Service and Congressional Budget Office to provide Members with independent views and oversight.

In the newly democratic parliaments, this capacity and expertise was lacking. Recognizing its importance for legislative autonomy, in 1990 the distinguished gentleman from Texas, Mr. FROST, established a task force through the Speaker's office to help them develop the needed capabilities. In cooperation with the late gentleman from New York, Mr. Solomon, the gentleman from Texas developed a program that allowed the House of Representatives to share the expertise of Members and staff, especially from the Congressional Research Service, with the newly democratic parliaments. The task force provided modest donations of information technology-related office equipment and reference materials for parliamentary libraries, thereby facilitating the establishment of independent research services.

The task force also helped those parliaments develop parliamentary procedures and the means to inform Members and the general public about parliamentary activities in a timely and open fashion. At a modest cost, we were able to help these parliaments become effective legislatures and play their part in a democratic system.

The Frost-Solomon Task Force was terminated in 1996. While most of those countries that received aid have indeed become full-fledged democracies, others still need a helping hand. The Price-Bereuter Resolution aims to provide that assistance.

The resolution that has been introduced would create a House Commission for Assisting Democratic Parliaments, comprised of eight House Members—four Republicans and four Democrats—and it would have a small staff to coordinate its activities and help Members determine which parliaments would most benefit from such assistance.

Much of the expertise that these parliaments require can be found in the House and its support agencies, so the resolution would allow congressional offices to detail employees to the Commission. Recognizing that many of those who worked on the initial Frost-Solomon Task Force have retired or are about to retire from congressional employment, the resolution allows the Commission to use those retirees

as consultants, so that parliaments can benefit from their years of expertise.

In addition to providing expert advice from Members and staff, the resolution envisions a modest assistance program to provide parliaments with information, technology-related equipment and with reference materials so that they could establish a research service and better disseminate legislative information. When the Commission identified needs in selected parliaments, it could recommend that the Agency for International Development provide certain equipment, materials or technical assistance to enable those parliaments to become more efficient and transparent.

The first task of this Commission should be to finish the work that was begun in Central and Eastern Europe, but the resolution does not limit the Commission's scope to that region. Once this program is established, it could expand to assist parliaments in other countries, as appropriate, like those in the Caucasus and Central Asian regions and perhaps in other parts of the world. For example, the United States is committed to help create representative democracies in Afghanistan and Iraq. It would be worthwhile if the House were to work with the new parliaments in those nations to help them develop as autonomous institutions in a democratic society.

Mr. Speaker, this Member was pleased to play a small part in the Frost-Solomon Task Force in the 1990s by participating in Frost-Solomon congressional delegations that reviewed the accomplishments of the assistance that had been given. Today, we have an opportunity to further assist in the emergence of democratic parliaments by enabling this House to share its expertise and to work with AID in providing the necessary assistance. This Member urges his colleagues to become cosponsors of the Price-Bereuter-Dreier-Frost resolution to create the House Commission for Assisting Democratic Parliaments.

MELHA SHRINERS—CELEBRATING
50 YEARS OF FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Melha Shrine Circus of Springfield. For 50 years the Melha Shriners have proudly presented this show as a great and historic form of family entertainment.

The Shriners have done this for the past half of a century in order to raise money to fund their marching units and other community activities in western Massachusetts. These events are meant to maintain their visibility and presence in the community so that they can continue to support their main message about their hospital work.

Beyond merely putting on a circus to entertain families across western Massachusetts, these philanthropists also always perform what they like to call "The Community Service Show." For this event they donate all of the almost 5,000 tickets to the circus to various community service groups who deal with children, adults, and families in need of aid. By bringing a little extra light into the lives of people down on their luck the Melha Shriners simply show that they are willing to take the extra